

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Thursday 3 September 2015 at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion at 19.30 hours

Present

Cllrs Edward O'Connor, Clive Baxter, John Brawn, Phillip Bush, Michael Knights, Ellen Pitt, Mick Procter, Steve Rich, Rod Searle and Richard Whiting. Also in attendance District Councillor Gibson-Harries (left 20.09), County Councillor Guy McGregor (left 20.09) and two members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mayhew.

2. Order of Business

Councillors were content with the order of business.

3. Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

Cllr Knights declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 - Planning application ref 2742/15.

Cllr Knights was informed he would need to leave the meeting when this item was considered.

Councillors were reminded of the requirement for them to individually update their Register of Interests as appropriate. All those present were reminded of the newly enacted Openness of Local Government Bodies Act 2014 and that the meeting may be filmed or recorded by any member of the public.

19.35 Meeting closed

Mid Suffolk District Council - Cllr Gibson-Harries reported a shortage of land supply for housing development within Mid Suffolk, there was a desire to defend the rural areas of the District but large housing developments would bring in both income and land supply (450 houses per year needed to be provided). Rural district Councillors were adamant that parishes should not be forced into rural development where it was not wanted and where the infrastructure could not cope with it.

Cllr Searle, in his role as Planning Co-ordinator, made Cllr Gibson-Harries aware that planning applications were being approved before the comments from the Parish Council were received. Cllr Searle explained that this had happened on more than one occasion and was not acceptable. Cllr G-H would ask the Lead Planning Officer for an explanation.

Suffolk County Council - Cllr McGregor reported that a new assistant director had been appointed to the Highways Department and Cllr McGregor would be letting him have his views on how the service had not been running efficiently.

Suffolk Police - a report provided by PCSO Long was read by the Clerk. The Parish Council noted the depressing nature of the report which detailed cuts in Officer level posts and the possible closure of police stations.

19.55 Meeting reconvened

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 August 2015 were agreed by Councillors. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from Minutes of 6 August 2015

None.

6. Planning

a. The following planning applications were considered:

Ref	Location	Application
2620/15	Daganya Farm, Nuttery Vale	White P.V.C.U and glass conservatory with 600 brickwork below window sections
Cllr Knights left the meeting at 20.06. Whilst the District Council had already determined this application (and dissatisfaction for this had been expressed during the public forum) the Parish Council considered the plans and agreed that they would recommend SUPPORT for the application.		
2766/15	Bridge House, Low Street	Construction of new bridge to provide access between garden and adjacent orchard
Cllr Knights returned to the meeting at 20.10. The application as presented was discussed in detail and it was agreed to recommend REFUSAL. The Parish Council were in agreement that they had no objection to the erection of a bridge in this location. However, they were concerned that both the proposed position and design may exacerbate a flooding risk in that area arising from obstruction to the flow of the river if branches and debris gather by the bridge. It was requested that consideration should be given to ensuring that the bridge is set at an elevation which would reduce the risk of obstruction i.e. higher than the bank. The Environment Agency was currently working on a flood mitigation scheme for the Chickering Beck and the Parish Council would like to ensure that they have been consulted on the proposed bridge.		



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2742/15	South View, Denham Road	Existing double garage to be converted into a two bedroom annexe being connected to the main dwelling via glazed link
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It was unanimously agreed to recommend SUPPORT for this application.

2881/15	65 Goldbrook	Erection of single storey rear/side extension
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It was unanimously agreed to recommend SUPPORT for this application.

b. The following planning determinations were noted:

Ref	Location	Decision
2422/15	The Old Bakery, Low Street – change of use from holiday accommodation to granny annex	Planning Permission GRANTED
2620/15	Daganya Farm, white UVPC and glass conservatory	Planning Permission GRANTED
3507/14	Horham Business Park use of existing airfield concrete for outside storage.	Planning Permission REFUSED on grounds of visual amenity.

c. Other Planning matters – Cllr Searle read communication from Mid Suffolk District Council which confirmed they would be closing the planning enforcement case for the Old Baptist Chapel, Cross Street as significant attempts had been made to clear the site.

7. Donation Request

A request from the Hoxne Playingfield Association for a donation of £500 for the ongoing maintenance of the new play equipment was considered. It was agreed (nine in favour, one against) the Parish Council would purchase and donate to the Playingfield Association an additional picnic bench. *Action: Clerk to organise the purchase following discussion with Playingfield Association on manufacturer and design.*

8. Governance

Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2015 - The Clerk reported that the external auditors had concluded there were no matters arising from the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2015. The audit opinion and the Annual Return were duly accepted by the Council.

9. Reports from the Chairman and Clerk

The Clerk reported:

Parish Council documents – the Clerk reminded all Councillors that any enquiries to view Parish Council documents should be forwarded to her.

Low Street Green – an informal meeting had taken place with a resident who was keen to make some repairs to the green, both around the edges where the grass had been worn and to low areas on the green which could be a trip hazard. Any costs relating to these works would be considered at the next meeting. *Action: Agenda next meeting.*

Green Street – a parishioner had copied the Parish Council in on correspondence he had sent to Suffolk County Council Highways on concerns for pedestrian safety as HGVs and tractors were mounting the pavement/verges on Green Street as a way of passing oncoming vehicles without the need to slow down. It was agreed that the Parish Council would also pursue this matter with the Highways Engineers.

The Chairman reported:

Green Street – He had met with new portfolio holder who agreed that the existing scheme does not work and is willing to explore the possibility of an improved build out which would probably be a County Council funded exercise. The next stage would be for the Highways Engineers to construct a temporary version of the improved design and monitor its effectiveness.

The Swan Public House – the putative tenants have dropped out, however, the Area Manager of Enterprise Inns had confirmed that another applicant was interested.

Superfast Broadband – the location of the box in Low Street had been agreed with kind co-operation of Cllr and Mrs McGregor. Another box should be installed in Green Street in front of Moat House.

Goldbook Bridge – the order has been placed for a complete resurfacing of the bridge.

10. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence, previously circulated for information, were noted:

Received	From	Subject
18.08.15	Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner	University College Suffolk research into perceptions of crime
17.08.15	Mid Suffolk District Council	Housing Allocations Policy consultation - advance notice

11. Financial matters

a. Payments: It was agreed to make the following payments. The Clerk reported the bank balances as: Current Account £3,130.71 which included the £300 of village of the year prize money, £61.33 for the

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Edward O'Connor (Chairman).....  Date: 1 October 2015

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redemption of the consolidated stock and a pending PWLB payment of £889.77. A bank reconciliation is appended to the minutes.

Amount	Payee	Details	Chq No	Power
£365.74	Mrs S Foote	Clerk's salary September 2015	101218	LGA 1972 S112 (ii)
£147.03	Mr J Lambert	Street Caretaker salary September 2015	101219	LGA 1972 S111 (i)
£240.00 inc VAT	BDO LLP	External Audit year ending 31 March 2015	101220	LGA 1972 S111 (i)
£36.00 inc VAT	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	Raising Your Game Councillor Training (12 August) – Cllrs Bush, Rich and O'Connor	101221	LGA 1972 S111 (i)
£75.00	Hoxne Playingfield Association	Six month's meeting room hire	101222	LGA 1972 S111 (i)

12. Consultations

There were no consultations to consider.

13. Reports

Brakey Wood and Footpaths – no report.

Community Emergency Planning – it is hoped to have a list of facilities and services within the village put together in the near future. It was confirmed that this volunteer group were not a committee of the Parish Council and this report was provided for information.

Hoxne Playingfield – Cllr Baxter reported that the football club were currently experiencing problems with disciplinary matters.

St Edmund's Hall – no report.

14. Matters of report by individual Councillors

The Clerk was asked to pursue if the screening conditions had been applied to the second chicken shed at Burnt House corner. *Action: Clerk.*

Cllr Knights reminded all, and particularly the new Councillors, of the Welcome Pack which the Parish Council provides to all new residents and how it was important to let the Clerk know if anyone was aware of new residents in the village.

Cllr Bush stated that the pothole repairs on the Denham Road seemed to have been quite erratic. *Action: Clerk to follow up with Highways.*

Cllr Baxter offered to become the Parish Council's representative (trustee) on the St Edmund's Hall Committee. *Action: Agenda next meeting for formal resolution. Cllr Baxter also volunteered to provide a Parish Council report to the local newspapers.*

Cllr O'Connor briefly discussed the concept of a combined Primary School/Village Sign.

15. Urgent matters and matters for information

Date of next meeting: Thursday 1 October 2015 at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion

The meeting was closed at 21.23.

